

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 31, 36 and 41 and add Claims 46-48 as follows.

Claims 1-30 (cancelled)

31. (Currently amended) An information processing apparatus for causing a plurality of printers to execute printing, said apparatus comprising:

a discrimination unit, arranged for discriminating whether a document comprising a plurality of pages is to be printed as a plurality of copies or as a single copy; and

a print data unit, arranged for generating print data for causing the plurality of printers to print the document copy by copy, ~~even when the number of copies is greater than or equal to the number of the printers,~~ copy such that the page order in each copy is maintained if said discrimination unit discriminates that the document is to be printed as a plurality of copies, and generating print data for causing the plurality of printers to print the document page by page if said discrimination unit discriminates that the document is to be printed as a single copy.

32. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 31, wherein if said discrimination unit discriminates that the document is to be printed as a single copy, said print data unit divides the number of pages of the document by the number of printers to obtain a number of print pages for each printer and generates the print data based on the obtained number of print pages.

33. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 31, further comprising a transmission unit arranged for transmitting the print data generated by said print data unit to the printers.

34. (Previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the printers include an ink jet printer.

35. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 31, further comprising a second discrimination unit arranged for discriminating whether copy-by-copy printing is designated, if said discrimination unit discriminates that the document is to be printed as a plurality of copies, wherein said print data unit generates the print data for causing the plurality of printers to print the document copy by copy if said second discrimination unit discriminates that the copy-by-copy printing is designated, and generates print data for causing the plurality of printers to print the document page by page if said second discrimination unit discriminates that the copy-by-copy printing is not designated.

36. (Currently Amended) An information processing method for causing a plurality of printers to execute printing, said method comprising:

a discrimination step of discriminating whether a document comprising a plurality of pages is to be printed as a plurality of copies or as a single copy; and

a print data generating step of generating print data for causing the plurality of printers to print the document copy by ~~copy, even when the number of copies is greater than or equal to the number of the printers;~~ copy such that the page order in each copy is maintained if said discrimination step discriminates that the document is to be printed as a plurality of copies, and generating print data for causing the plurality of printers to print the document page by page if said discrimination step discriminates that the document is to be printed as a single copy.

37. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 36, wherein if said discrimination step discriminates that the document is to be printed as a single copy, said print data generating step divides the number of pages of the document by the number of printers to obtain a number of print pages for each printer and generates the print data based on the obtained number of print pages.

38. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 36, further comprising a transmission step of transmitting the print data generated in said print data generating step to the printers.

39. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 36, wherein the printers include an ink jet printer.

40. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 36, further comprising a second discrimination step of discriminating whether copy-by-copy printing is designated, if said discrimination step discriminates that the document is to be printed as a plurality of copies, wherein said print data generating step generates the print data for causing the plurality of printers to print the document copy by copy if said second discrimination step discriminates that the copy-by-copy printing is designated, and generates print data for causing the plurality of printers to print the document page by page if said second discrimination step discriminates that the copy-by-copy printing is not designated.

41. (Currently amended) A computer program executed in an information processing apparatus for causing a plurality of printers to execute printing, said program comprising:

a discrimination step of discriminating whether a document comprising a plurality of pages is to be printed as a plurality of copies or as a single copy; and

a print data generating step of generating print data for causing the plurality of printers to print the document copy by ~~copy, even when the number of copies is greater than or equal to the number of the printers;~~ copy such that the page order in each copy is maintained if said discrimination step discriminates that the document is to be printed as a plurality of copies, and generating print data for causing the plurality of printers to print the document page by page if said discrimination step discriminates that the document is to be printed as a single copy.

42. (Previously presented) A program according to claim 41, wherein if said discrimination step discriminates that the document is to be printed as a single copy, said print data generating step divides the number of pages of the document by the number of printers to obtain a number of print pages for each printer and generates the print data based on the obtained number of print pages.

43. (Previously presented) A program according to claim 41, further comprising a transmission step of transmitting the print data generated in said print data generating step to the printers.

44. (Previously presented) A program according to claim 41, wherein the printers include an ink jet printer.

45. (Previously presented) A program according to claim 41, further comprising a second discrimination step of discriminating whether copy-by-copy printing is designated, if said discrimination step discriminates that the document is to be printed as a plurality of copies, wherein said print data generating step generates the print data for causing the plurality of printers to print the document copy by copy if said second discrimination step discriminates that the copy-by-copy printing is designated, and generates print data for causing the plurality of printers to print the document page by page if said second discrimination step discriminates that the copy-by-copy printing is not designated.

46. (New) An information processing method for causing a plurality of printers to execute printing, said method comprising:

- a discrimination step of discriminating whether a document comprising a plurality of pages is to be printed as a plurality of copies or as a single copy; and
- a print control step of controlling the plurality of printers to print the document copy by copy such that the page order in each copy is maintained if said discrimination step discriminates that the document is to be printed as a plurality of copies, and controlling the plurality of printers to print the document page by page if said discrimination step discriminates that the document is to be printed as a single copy.

47. (New) An information processing apparatus for causing a plurality of printers to execute printing, said apparatus comprising:

- a discrimination unit, arranged for discriminating whether a document comprising a plurality of pages is to be printed as a plurality of copies or as a single copy; and
- a print control unit, arranged for controlling the plurality of printers to print the document copy by copy such that the page order in each copy is maintained if said discrimination unit discriminates that the document is to be printed as a plurality of copies, and controlling the plurality of printers to print the document page by page if said discrimination unit discriminates that the document is to be printed as a single copy.

48. (New) A computer program executed in an information processing apparatus for causing a plurality of printers to execute printing, said program comprising:

a discrimination step of discriminating whether a document comprising a plurality of pages is to be printed as a plurality of copies or as a single copy; and

a print control step of controlling the plurality of printers to print the document copy by copy such that the page order in each copy is maintained if said discrimination step discriminates that the document is to be printed as a plurality of copies, and controlling the plurality of printers to print the document page by page if said discrimination step discriminates that the document is to be printed as a single copy.